

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A magnetic detecting element has a multilayer laminate including a first free magnetic layer. A second
5 antiferromagnetic layer is disposed on each side surface of the multilayer laminate in the track width direction. A second free magnetic layer is disposed from the upper surface of the second antiferromagnetic layer to the upper surface of the first free magnetic layer. Thus, the shield distance in
10 the central portion of the element can be prevented from increasing, and the insulation between a shield layer and an electrode layer is enhanced.